First RAP Regional Workshop on
Building Training Resources for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics:
Towards Country-Specific Minimum Set of Core Data

Theme III

Global Minimum set of Core Data Items – Economic indicators

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UN ESCAP
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)

Core Data Items

Indicators, Variables and Data Item

Take for example rice crop:

An *Indicator* for planning for food security:

  per capita availability of food grains.

Rice being a staple food in the region, it will be a *data item*

– i.e. data on rice would be required to build the indicator.

Data on which *variables* do you think would be required for this purpose?

– production of rice, (external) trade of rice,

– prices – producers' price and consumers' price etc.

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Economic Indicators

Economic indicators relate to activities of

  Production – its growth

  Consumption and other uses

  Investment – both physical and financial resources

  Distribution – including foreign trade and stock

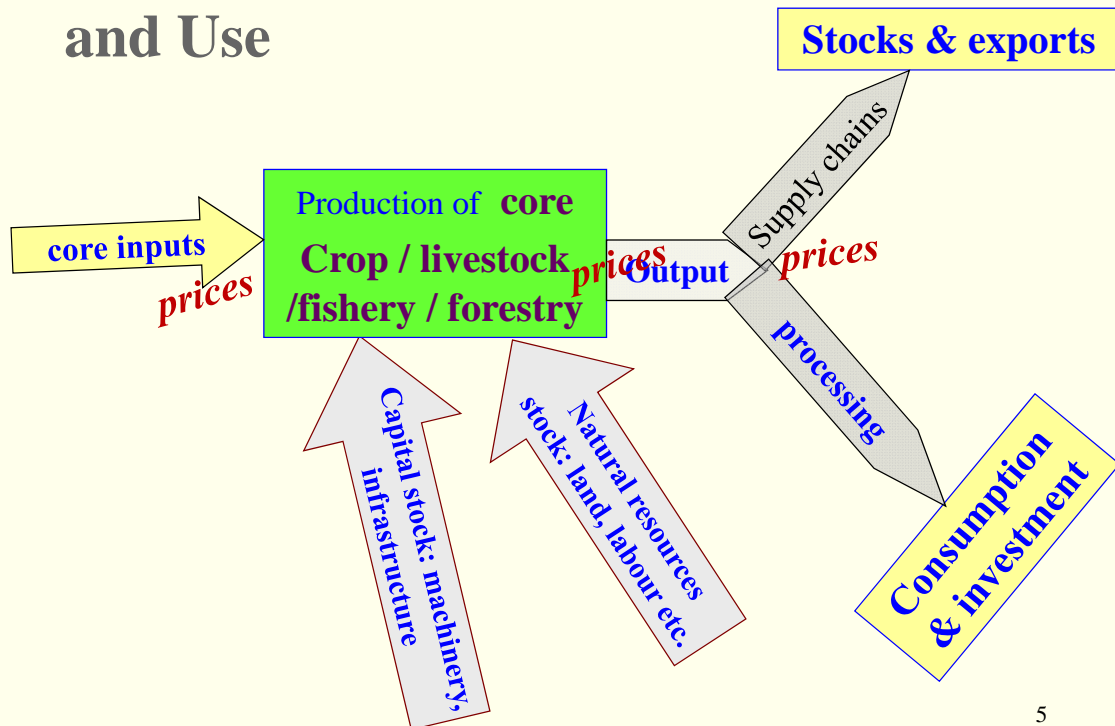 Prices – at different stages of production, distribution and consumption

These are called ***group of variables*** in the *Global Strategy*.

  [See pp. 16 & 17 of the *Global Strategy*]

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Production, Distribution and Use

Stocks & exports

core inputs

prices

Production of **core**

Crop / livestock /fishery / forestry

prices **Output** *prices*

Supply chains

processing

Capital stock: machinery, infrastructure

Natural resources stock: land, labour etc.

Consumption & investment

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Core Data Items

- Core Output:
  - crop,
  - Livestock,
  - Fishery products
  - Forestry products and
- Core Inputs:
  - Fertilisers & pesticide
  - irrigation, electricity used,
  - roads, communication etc.,
  - Machinery & livestock by purpose

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Identifying
Indicators, Core Data Items
and Variables

Identification Process

Guiding Development Process

- Development Strategy
  – A vision based on social endowment
- Plan
  – Perspective Plan (long-term)
  – Medium Term (5 yrs)
  – Annual Plan (budgets)
- Policy
  – an instrument to give direction to individual decisions

General Policy Goals

- – Growth: efficiency to resource allocation
- – Equity: distribution
- – Stability/ security and sustainability
  - • Risk minimization
  - • Environment protection

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Policies

- **Macro-economic policy:**
  - – Affect all sectors and economic agents, like
    - • Interest rates
    - • Export orientation
    - • Subsidies and taxes
    - • Inequality reduction
- **Sectoral Policy:**
  - – Targeted for selected players, like
    - • Land reforms
    - • Growth of food production
    - • Price support / stabilisation or Rural-urban terms of trade
    - • Sustainable use of physical / natural resources
    - • Reduction of malnutrition / risks of famine & starvation

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Identification process

```
┌─────────────┐         ┌──────────────┐        ┌──────────────┐
│  Indicators │         │ Prioritization│       │   Data on    │
│  specifying │ ──────▶ │   & review   │ ─────▶ │ which core   │
│  frequency, │         └──────────────┘        │   items?     │
│  timeliness,│                 ▲               └──────────────┘
│      &      │                 │                       │
│  reliability│                 │                       ▼
│   required  │                 │               ┌──────────────┐
└─────────────┘                 │               │  For which   │
                                │               │  variables?  │
                                │               └──────────────┘
                        ┌──────────────┐                │
                        │   Whether    │                ▼
                        │  feasible /  │        ┌──────────────┐
                        │ sustainable? │ ◀───── │   Whether    │
                        └──────────────┘        │  currently   │
                                                │  available?  │
                                                └──────────────┘
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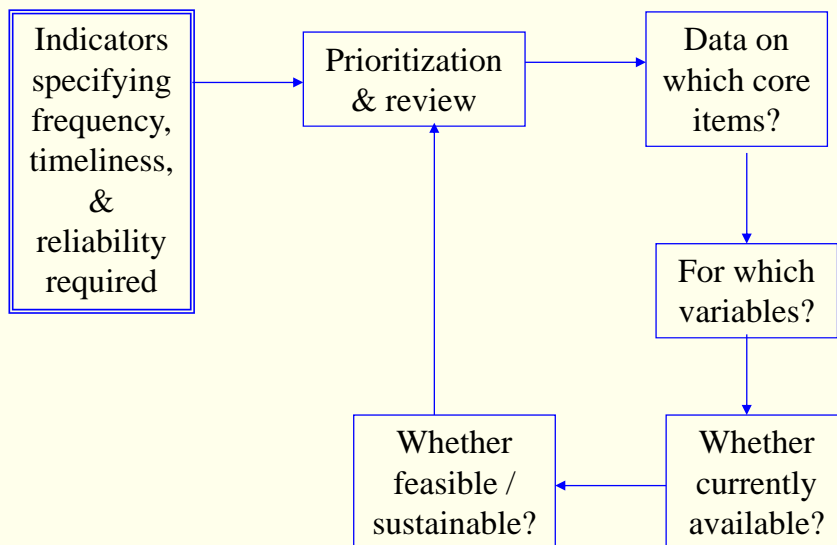
Identifying Indicators

Required indicators: user-producer dialogue
specifying

- Purpose
- Frequency
- Timeliness
- Required reliability

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Identifying variables and core data items

Which crops / livestock / fishery product / forestry product?

Based on relative importance and national needs

Which variables?

- Production, area, yield rate
- Consumption
- Other uses (such as inputs)
- Resources stock – land use, irrigation
- Prices
- Investment – machinery, infrastructure related, marketing

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Thanks